

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

- [c1]** 1. A method for providing local information to a user device, the method comprising:
- receiving a broadcast information stream at a first data rate at a headend;
 - inserting one or more packets from a local information stream into the broadcast information stream to form a combined information stream; and
 - transmitting the combined information stream to the user device at a second data rate.
- [c2]** 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the user device includes at least one of the following: a display, a computer, a VCR, a DVR, a set-top box, and a TV.
- [c3]** 3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the first data rate is around 30Mbps and the second data rate is less than 100kbps.
- [c4]** 4. A method for providing local information to a user device, the method comprising:
- combining a broadcast information stream at a first data rate and a local information stream to form a combined information stream at a second data rate; and
 - receiving the combined information stream at the user device.

- [c5]** 5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the user device includes at least one of the following: a display, a computer, a VCR, a DVR, a set-top box, and a TV.
- [c6]** 6. The method according to claim 4, wherein the first data rate is around 30Mbps and the second data rate is less than 100kbps.
- [c7]** 7. A method for providing local information to a user device, the method comprising:
- receiving a broadcast information stream including one or more packets unusable to the user device;
 - inserting one or more local information packets in place of the unusable packets, to form a combined information stream;
 - and
 - transmitting the combined information stream to the user device.
- [c8]** 8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the user device includes at least one of the following: a display, a computer, a VCR, a DVR, a set-top box, and a TV.
- [c9]** 9. The method according to claim 7, wherein the first data rate is around 30Mbps and the second data rate is less than 100kbps.
- [c10]** 10. A system for providing local information to a user device, the system comprising:
- a headend coupled to the user device;
 - a local information source coupled to the headend; and

a broadcast information source coupled to the headend,
the system configured to:

receive a broadcast information stream from the
broadcast information source at a first rate at the headend;

insert one or more packets from a local information
stream from the local information source into the broadcast
information stream to form a combined information stream; and

transmit the combined information stream to the user
device at a second data rate.

[c11] 11. The system according to claim 10, wherein the user device
includes at least one of the following: a display, a computer, a
VCR, a DVR, a set-top box, and a TV.

[c12] 12. The system according to claim 10, wherein the first data
rate is around 30Mbps and the second data rate is less than
100kbps.

[c13] 13. A system for providing local information to a user device,
the system comprising:

a broadcast information stream at a first data rate; and

a local information stream, the system configured to:

combine the broadcast information stream and the local
information stream to form a combined information stream at a
second data rate; and

receive the combined information stream at the user
device.

- [c14]** 14. The system according to claim 13, wherein the user device includes at least one of the following: a display, a computer, a VCR, a DVR, a set-top box, and a TV.
- [c15]** 15. The system according to claim 13, wherein the first data rate is around 20Mbps and the second data rate is around 25Mbps.
- [c16]** 16. A system for providing local information to a user device, the system comprising:
- a headend coupled to the user device;
 - a local information source coupled to the headend; and
 - a broadcast information source coupled to the headend,
- the system configured to:
- receive a broadcast information stream including one or more packets unneeded by the user device;
 - insert one or more local information packets in place of the unneeded packets, to form a combined information stream;
 - and
 - transmit the combined information stream to the user device.
- [c17]** 17. The system according to claim 16, wherein the user device includes at least one of the following: a display, a computer, a VCR, a DVR, a set-top box, and a TV.
- [c18]** 18. The system according to claim 16, wherein the first data rate is around 30Mbps and the second data rate is less than 100kbps.

- [c19] 19. A broadcast information source configured to transmit a broadcast information stream, wherein one or more packets associated with a local information stream are inserted into one or more unneeded packet locations in the broadcast information stream.
- [c20] 20. A broadcast information source configured to transmit a broadcast information stream at a first data rate, wherein one or more packets associated with a local information stream are inserted into the broadcast information stream to form a combined information stream, the combined information stream transmitted at a second data rate different from the first data rate.

09826505-040504